REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 6, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. The application as presented is believed to be in allowable condition.

Applicants note that claims 13-24 have been indicated as allowable.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,424,903 (Schreiber) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,534,734 (Pugh). Claim 2 has been canceled and the rejection as to this claim should therefore be withdrawn. Independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a power strip. The power strip includes a housing having a first end and a second end, a first group of power outlets and a second group of power outlets mounted on an exterior surface of the housing, and a power management circuit defined on an interior region of the housing. The power management circuit includes a current sensor circuit that is adapted to receive input power over an input power line, the current sensor circuit being coupled to a power supply and to the first group of power outlets. The power management circuit also includes a micro-controller coupled to the power supply and to a relay driver, the relay driver receiving control signals from the micro-controller, and an input power source sensor circuit, coupled intermediate the power supply and the micro-controller, to receive primary input power from the power supply and secondary input power from a secondary power source, whereby the input power source sensor circuit provides the primary input power to the micro-controller and if the primary input power fails, the input power source sensor circuit provides the secondary input power to the micro-controller. The power management circuit also includes a plurality of relays coupled to the relay driver and to the second group of power outlets. The relays receive a control signal from the relay driver to actuate the relays to a conductive state to powering-on the power outlets and the relays receive another control signal from the relay driver to actuate the relays to a non-conductive state to powering-off the power outlets. The power strip is further comprised of an under voltage sensor coupled to the micro-controller and adapted to receive a predetermined voltage-value from the power supply and being responsive to the predetermined voltage-value falling below a predetermined threshold value by providing a reset signal to the micro-controller.

Schreiber discloses a power switching system for use in powering up the components of a personal computer or other electronic device. The user of the switching system uses a remote control to program the sequence in which power will be provided to particular components and the delay between powering on the components. The processor stores the sequence and time delays according to which power is provided and actuates the relays in the same order. When the power switching system is powered down, the relays are actuated in the reverse order.

Pugh discloses a power shedding device that includes a microcontroller that reads manually programmed information, and is connected to a reset generator. The reset generator outputs a reset signal to the microcontroller when there is a power failure condition, which triggers a different microcontroller mode of operation.

Neither Schreiber nor Pugh discloses or suggests an under voltage sensor coupled to a micro-controller and adapted to receive a predetermined voltage-value from a power supply and being responsive to the predetermined voltage-value falling below a predetermined threshold value by providing a reset signal to the micro-controller, as is recited in claim 1. Nor do Schreiber and Pugh, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an input power source sensor circuit, coupled intermediate the power supply and the micro-controller, to receive primary input power from the power supply and secondary input power from a secondary power source, whereby the input power source sensor circuit provides the primary input power to the micro-controller and if the primary input power fails, the input power source sensor circuit provides the secondary input power to the micro-controller, also recited in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable over Schreiber in view of Pugh and the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 4-6 and 8-12, being directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreiber in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,071,367 (Luu). Claim 26 has been canceled, and the rejection as to this claim should therefore be withdrawn. As discussed below, independent claim 25 is patentable over the prior art.

Claim 25 is directed to an intelligent power strip. The intelligent power strip includes a housing, a first group of power outlets defined on the housing, a second group of power outlets defined on the housing, and a means for controlling power to the first and second groups of

power outlets in accordance with a predetermined sequence and a predetermined delay to sequentially power-on the second group of power outlets, the means for controlling including a means for programming the sequence for which the second group of power outlets is powered-on and powered-off and a means for programming delays into the power strip, the delays being related to powering-on and powering-off the second group of power outlets. The intelligent power strip further includes a means for sensing current on the input power line and a means for determining if the sensed current is below a normal-threshold value, wherein if the sensed current is below the normal-threshold value, the power strip enables a means for indicating a normal operation of the power strip. The power strip further includes means for determining if the sensed current is above the normal-threshold value and a means for determining if the sensed current is below an overload-threshold value. If the sensed current is above the normal-threshold value and below the overload-threshold value, the power strip enables a means for indicating a high current status of the power strip.

Luu discloses a cord storing power strip that includes a circuit breaker with a reset button within the power strip. An indicator located on the surface of the power strip indicates operation of a surge protection means or for indicating a ground condition of the power strip.

Similar to the argument discussed above with respect to claim 1, neither Schreiber nor Luu, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests an intelligent power strip including a means for sensing current on the input power line and a means for determining if the sensed current is below a normal-threshold value, wherein if the sensed current is below the normal-threshold value, the power strip enables a means for indicating a normal operation of the power strip, as is recited in claim 25. Nor do Schreiber or Luu, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a means for determining if the sensed current is above the normal-threshold value and a means for determining if the sensed current is below an overload-threshold value, wherein if the sensed current is above the normal-threshold value and below the overload-threshold value, the power strip enables a means for indicating a high current status of the power strip, also recited in claim 25.

Based on the foregoing, claim 25 is patentable over Schreiber in view of Luu and the rejection of claim 25 should be withdrawn. Claims 28-32 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 25, and are patentable for at least the reasons noted above with respect to claim 25.

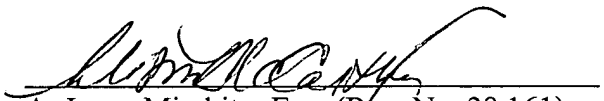
It has been indicated by the Examiner that claims 3-6, 8-12, 14-22 and 28-32 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note that claims 14-22 have been indicated as allowable, and it is therefore believed that the objection of these claims was made in error. If the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned anytime to discuss claims 14-22.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3 and intervening claim 2. Claim 1 is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. As claims 4-6 and 8-12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, Applicants request that these claims be allowed for at least the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

Further, Applicants have amended claim 25 to include the limitations of claim 28 and intervening claim 26. Claim 25 is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. As claims 29-32 depend on claim 25 directly or indirectly, Applicants request that these claims be allowed for at least the reasons noted above with respect to claim 25.

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the examiner has any questions regarding the application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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